

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T STATE 133746

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEHRAN 5350 ACTION SECSTATE JUN 9.

QUOTE: S E C R E T TEHRAN 5350

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO BEIRUT

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION

1. AMBASSADOR SAW MINISTER OF COURT ALAM EVENING JUNE 8
DURING WHICH LATTER TOLD HIM OF RECENT MEETING HE HAD WITH
LEBANESE AMBASSADOR AL-KHALIL WHO PRESENTED VERY GLOOMY
PROGNOSIS OF LEBANON'S FUTURE. KHALIL SAID ARMED PALESTINIANS
NOW NUMBER ABOUT 40,000 WHILE LEBANESE ARMY IS ONLY ABOUT
15,000. LEBANESE ARE DIVIDED INTO MANY FACTIONS WITH
SHI'AS FIGHTING SUNNIS, PALESTINIANS FIGHTING LEBANESE,
AND MUSLIMS FIGHTING CHRISTIANS. VARIOUS INFLUENCES
IDENTIFIED AS RUSSIAN, LIBYAN AND CHINESE ARE TAKING ADVAN-
TAGE OF THESE DIFFERENCES. KHALIL SAID SITUATION IN
LEBANON IS ALMOST HOPELESS AND ASKED THROUGH ALAM FOR SHAH'S
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COUNSEL ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE DONE.

2. ALAM ASKED KHALIL WHAT LEBANON WOULD DO IF IT DID GET HELP. WHAT, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD IT DO ABOUT THE PALESTINIANS? KHALIL REPLIED THAT LEBANON DOES NOT WANT TO ELIMINATE THE PALESTINIANS, IT ONLY WANTS TO CONTROL THE SITUATION WITHIN ITS BORDERS AND ELIMINATE THE GROWTH OF A STATE WITHIN A STATE.

3. ALAM TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT THE SHAH DOUBTS MUCH OF ANYTHING CAN BE DONE AND HE CERTAINLY DOES NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN A LOSING GAME. THE SHAH WONDERED WHETHER ANY OTHER COUNTRY WAS DOING ANYTHING TO HELP OUT. SPECIFICALLY, DID THE US HAVE ANY CLEAR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AND/OR PLAN FOR ASSISTANCE?

4. PLEASE ADVISE.
MIKLOS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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